

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, NOVEMBER 1994****SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Series updated since the October 1994 issue are: labour force, job vacancies, industrial disputes; housing finance, building approvals; consumer price index, average weekly earnings, retail turnover; hotels, motels and guest house accommodation (Australia and takings at constant prices for the ACT); and new motor vehicle registrations.

Notable movements in this issue include:

- Trend labour force participation rates in the ACT remained steady at 73.0 per cent. The unemployment rate for the ACT has increased by 0.2 percentage points in October 1994 to reach 7.6 per cent, and has decreased by 0.1 percentage points when compared to the same period in the previous year.
- Long-term unemployment in the ACT fell from 3,445 in August 1994 to 2,679 in September 1994, representing a decrease of 22.2 per cent. As a proportion of total unemployment in the ACT, it recorded a significant decrease of 30.4 per cent in September 1994, compared to a decrease of 3.0 per cent nationally.
- Job vacancies for the ACT were 2,400 in August 1994, an increase of 26.3 per cent from May 1994 and 71.4 per cent from August 1993. This is the third consecutive quarter of growth in job vacancies.
- The number of dwelling unit approvals fell by 11.1 per cent in September 1994 compared with August 1994. The value of building approvals for new residential buildings and non-residential buildings also fell in the same period by 1.9 per cent and 31.2 per cent, respectively. However, the value of residential alterations and additions continued to climb. It increased by 31.7 per cent in September 1994.
- The All Groups CPI for the ACT increased by 0.5 per cent between the June and September quarters 1994, resulting in an annual increase of 1.4 per cent. Contributing most to this increase was health and personal care with 1.6 per cent (primarily due to cost of hospital and medical services — not published in *ACT Business Indicators*), followed by 1.5 per cent in transportation (mainly due to cost of vehicle insurance).
- Trend estimates of retail turnover were 4.0 per cent higher in September 1994 than recorded in September 1993. The highest contributing components to the growth over the year were Butchers, Furniture stores and Floor coverings stores with increases of 45.5 per cent, 25.5 per cent and 19.0 per cent, respectively (the above components not published in *ACT Business Indicators*).
- The trend in room nights occupied in hotels, motels and guest houses with facilities declined marginally by 0.1 per cent in the June quarter 1994, however, this represents an increase of 12.6 per cent from the June quarter 1993. Takings from accommodation at current prices fell slightly by 1.1 per cent in trend terms, while takings from accommodation at average 1989–90 prices remained steady at \$16.1 million.
- As with most States/Territory, trend estimates of new motor vehicle registrations declined in the ACT by 2.0 per cent. This represented the second highest fall following Queensland with 3.8 per cent. This compares with Australia which decreased by 0.5 per cent.

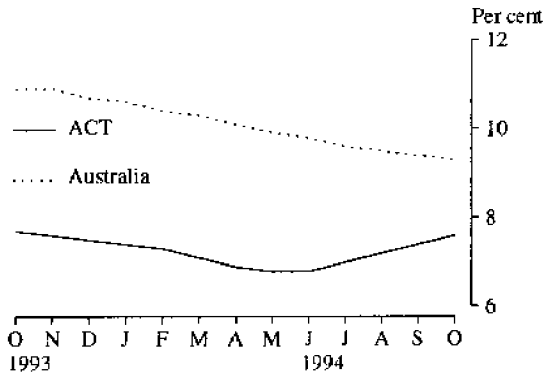
**Dalma Jacobs**  
Statistician Australian Capital Territory

**INQUIRIES**

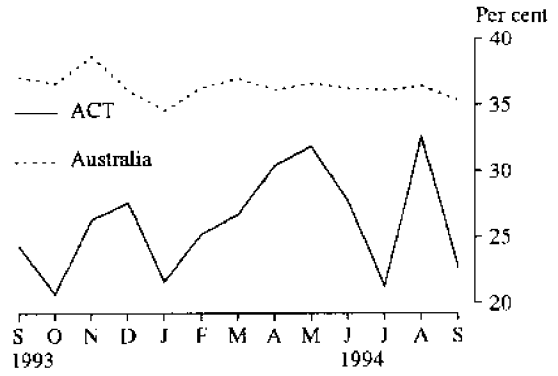
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**SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS**

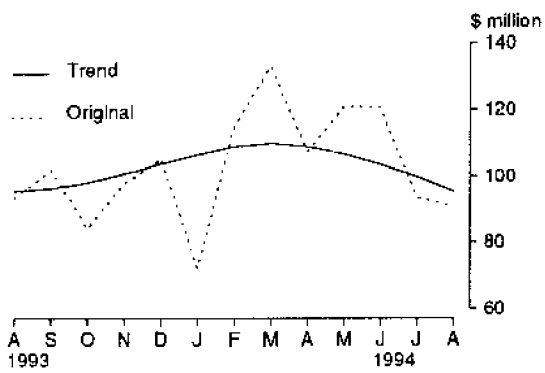
**LABOUR FORCE**  
Trend unemployment rates



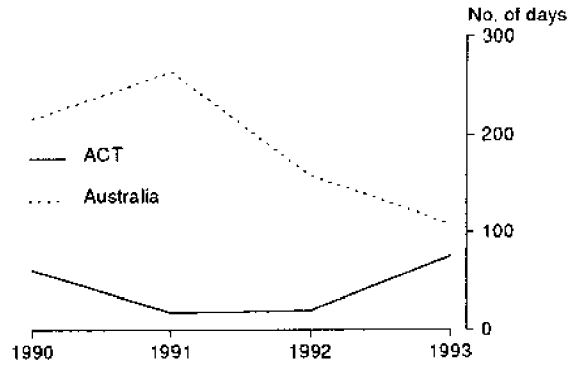
**LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT**  
As percentage of total unemployment



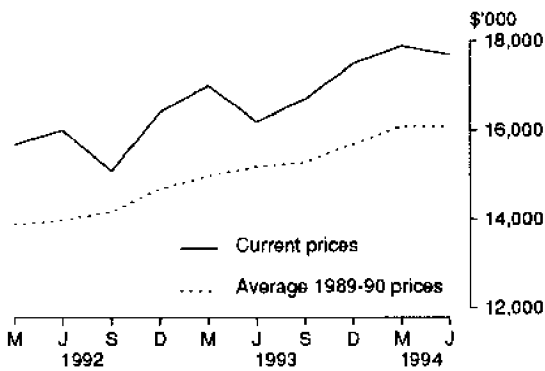
**HOUSING FINANCE**  
Total value of commitments



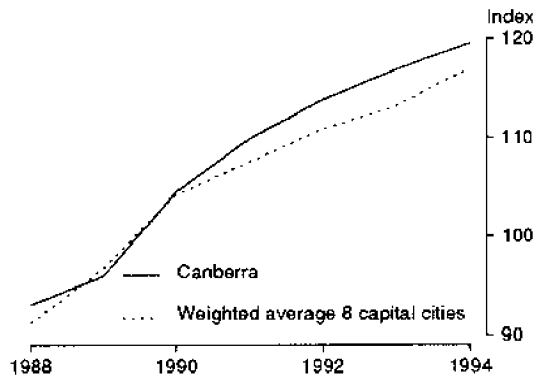
**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES**  
Working days lost per thousand employees



**TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION**  
Trend series



**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
Transportation at September



**TABLE 1. AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES,  
DECEMBER QUARTER 1994/SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1995  
EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE  
(per cent)**

Period	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
	<b>Short-term</b>	
Sept. 1993–Dec. 1993	1.1	3.6
Dec. 1993–Mar. 1994	0.1	-1.4
Mar. 1994–June 1994	1.6	1.9
June 1994–Sept. 1994	1.3	1.9
Sept. 1994–Dec. 1994	3.8	2.3
<b>Medium-term</b>		
Sept. 1993–Sept. 1994	1.5	2.9
Dec. 1993–Dec. 1994	2.7	3.1
Mar. 1994–Mar. 1995	3.8	3.9
June 1994–June 1995	6.2	3.3
Sept. 1994–Sept. 1995	2.3	4.1

**TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, NOVEMBER 1994**

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR</b>							
<b>POPULATION, March qtr 94</b>							
Natural increase	'000	300.3	0.3	0.6	17 803.3	0.3	1.0
Net migration	no.	820	5.8	-13.6	34 933	6.1	-8.4
Total increase	no.	54	-110.3	-96.9	22 528	446.4	22.8
	no.	874	246.8	-67.6	57 461	55.1	1.7
<b>LABOUR FORCE, Oct. 94p</b>							
Original series							
Employed	'000	152.8	-1.4	0.1	8 034.8	-0.7	3.5
Unemployed	'000	12.6	6.8	12.5	753.3	-9.3	-16.5
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.6	0.5	0.7	8.6	-0.7	-1.8
Participation rate(a)	%	72.3	-0.6	-0.5	62.8	-1.0	0.1
Long-term unemployed (Sept. 94)	no.	2 679	-22.2	-11.7	293 226	1.1	-15.3
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Sept. 94)	%	22.7	-30.4	-7.0	35.3	-3.0	-4.9
Trend series							
Employed	'000	154.3	-0.1	1.2	8 005.6	0.3	3.5
Unemployed	'000	12.7	2.4	—	817.5	-0.9	-13.9
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.6	0.2	-0.1	9.3	-0.1	-1.6
Participation rate(a)	%	73.0	—	-0.4	63.1	0.1	0.2
<b>JOB VACANCIES, Aug. qtr 94</b>	'000	2.4	26.3	71.4	68.7	39.1	75.7
<b>INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, July 94</b>							
Working days lost	'000	0.1	100.0	-66.7	35.6	25.4	-26.7
Days lost per '000 employees (year ended July 94)	no.	78	-2.5	875.0	88	-3.3	-50.3
<b>BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION</b>							
<b>HOUSING FINANCE, Aug. 94</b>							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	8.5	-16.7	-35.6	787.4	4.2	21.3
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	19.9	18.5	51.9	229.5	18.4	32.1
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	55.7	-4.0	-4.3	3 004.4	2.2	10.2
Total housing commitments	\$m	90.8	-2.8	-2.9	4 021.3	3.4	13.3
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	82.7	-19.0	-11.4	3 555.2	-14.1	0.1
Trend series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	95.3	-4.6	-0.2	3 893.4	-3.4	8.7
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS, Sept. 94</b>							
Dwelling units	no.	264	-11.1	0.4	17 428	-7.5	10.1
Value of new residential	\$m	25.8	-1.9	-6.2	1 591.5	-11.7	19.0
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	7.9	31.7	49.1	257.8	7.0	15.1
Value of non-residential	\$m	16.1	-31.2	28.8	563.6	-35.2	-38.9
Value of total building	\$m	49.7	-10.8	10.0	2 413.0	-17.2	-2.9
<b>BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, June qtr 94</b>							
New houses	no.	360	-3.0	-37.5	33 632	17.2	10.2
Value of houses commenced	\$m	42.4	4.7	-33.9	3 170.9	20.6	16.8
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	50.7	-68.3	-22.0	2 322.3	2.9	20.8
Value of total commencements	\$m	158.5	-42.7	-21.5	7 171.2	12.9	18.1
<b>PRICE INDEXES</b>							
Established house price index, June qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)		133.8	-0.8	—	110.9	1.2	3.4
Price index of house building materials, Aug. 94 (b)		151.4	-0.1	1.4	155.0	0.3	3.2

TABLE 2. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY BUSINESS INDICATORS, NOVEMBER 1994 — *continued*

Indicator	Unit	Australian Capital Territory			Australia		
		Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)	Latest figure	Change from previous period (%)	Change from same period previous year (%)
<b>PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING</b>							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Sept. qtr 94 (1989-90=100.0)							
Food		112.3	0.8	2.3	110.4	0.8	1.5
Housing		99.7	0.4	-0.6	94.9	0.5	—
Transportation		119.6	1.5	2.3	117.0	1.6	3.4
All groups		112.6	0.5	1.4	111.9	0.6	1.9
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Males	\$	714.0	0.2	5.9	625.1	-0.1	2.1
Females	\$	496.0	1.1	2.7	422.8	1.4	4.1
Total persons	\$	602.5	0.2	4.0	531.8	0.5	2.8
Trend series							
Males	\$	720.5	2.1	7.7	625.4	0.5	1.8
Females	\$	492.5	1.4	3.4	420.8	1.4	3.1
Total persons	\$	605.1	1.7	5.7	530.7	0.9	2.3
<b>RETAIL TURNOVER, Sept. 94</b>							
Original series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	55.7	2.2	9.2	2 628.5	1.2	7.6
Department and general stores	\$m	21.6	11.9	2.9	880.2	11.0	5.2
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	12.9	10.3	4.9	1 091.6	1.9	11.3
All other stores	\$m	80.0	-3.3	5.1	4 165.7	0.1	8.6
Total	\$m	170.2	1.2	6.1	8 766.0	1.6	8.3
Trend series							
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	\$m	54.2	0.2	5.9	2 647.9	0.8	6.7
Department and general stores	\$m	22.9	-0.4	2.2	914.4	0.3	4.6
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	\$m	12.4	-0.8	-0.8	1 115.6	0.2	9.9
All other stores	\$m	81.3	0.9	4.0	4 238.2	0.7	9.5
Total	\$m	170.8	0.4	4.0	8 916.1	0.6	8.2
<b>TOURISM AND TRANSPORT</b>							
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, June qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	199.2	-2.6	6.5	8 196.9	-1.9	6.4
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.2	-1.7	8.2	674.5	-4.2	10.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.7	—	9.0	580.7	-0.6	8.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	207.0	-2.8	14.7	8 558.5	0.5	6.5
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.3	-5.5	8.8	714.2	-0.1	10.3
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.8	3.7	9.7	611.9	2.9	8.5
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	209.5	-0.1	12.6	8 597.3	1.0	7.2
Takings at current prices	\$m	17.7	-1.1	9.3	720.1	1.2	11.5
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.1	—	5.9	609.3	2.6	8.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Sept. 94</b>							
Motor vehicles	no.	934	-12.9	-13.9	50 233	-5.1	18.1
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	902	4.9	-10.5	48 841	0.1	20.8
Trend motor vehicles	no.	903	-2.0	-9.6	50 177	-0.5	9.6
<b>INTERSTATE ROAD FREIGHT MOVEMENT, June qtr 94</b>							
Originating	'000 tonnes	102.9	124.7	133.9	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
Receiving	'000 tonnes	122.4	-3.4	-7.6	4 663.2	3.3	6.1
<b>AGGREGATE INDICATORS</b>							
<b>STATE ACCOUNTS, June qtr 94</b>							
Original series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 289	4.5	5.4	107 566	4.7	6.0
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	3 041	9.4	-2.7	99 234	8.0	4.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 299	2.9	3.1	66 237	3.6	4.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	265	22.7	-26.0	17 102	12.0	8.9
Trend series							
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 295	0.6	3.0	108 656	1.5	5.5
State final demand at average 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 961	0.4	1.0	98 137	1.4	4.3
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 318	-0.4	3.0	67 518	1.3	5.5
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	254	-1.2	14.5	16 895	2.6	9.5

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points. (b) ACT data 1986-87 = 100.00, Australia 1985-86 = 100.0.

Source: ABS Catalogue Nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

TABLE 3. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>											
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Oct. 94p	2 681.3	1 996.7	1 453.3	650.2	802.3	194.3	79.6	154.3	8 005.6
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Oct. 94p	9.0	10.2	9.1	10.4	7.9	10.6	7.9	7.6	9.3
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>											
Dwelling units approved	no.	Sept. 94	5 452	2 719	4 986	1 052	2 433	313	209	264	17 428
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Sept. 94	207.2	119.5	114.1	33.1	61.9	7.8	3.9	16.1	563.6
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Sept. 94	920.2	424.9	566.7	125.0	258.7	36.7	31.0	49.7	2 413.0
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>											
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	June qtr 94	1 264.5	703.0	748.3	197.3	469.2	70.1	53.5	42.1	3 547.9
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>											
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May qtr 94	632.7	613.5	582.1	598.0	612.0	592.6	634.2	716.0	616.0
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>											
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Sept. 94	3 093.2	2 166.4	1 583.6	676.2	902.8	218.5	n.p.	170.8	8 916.1
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>											
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	June qtr 94	2 891.8	1 356.3	2 342.9	472.0	791.0	267.9	266.0	209.5	8 597.3
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>											
Trend	no.	Sept. 1994	18 420	11 334	9 151	3 382	5 214	1 235	538	903	50 177
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>											
Food		Sept. qtr 94	110.2	108.6	110.7	114.5	111.6	113.9	112.8	112.3	110.4
Housing		Sept. qtr 94	96.8	92.7	101.1	92.4	88.5	94.8	105.3	99.7	94.9
Transportation		Sept. qtr 94	115.3	118.4	115.8	119.6	117.9	113.9	114.9	119.6	117.0
All Groups		Sept. qtr 94	111.0	112.2	112.5	114.9	110.1	113.3	113.0	112.6	111.9
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>											
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	104.0	106.0	107.0	101.0	105.0	115.0	94.0	109.0	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sept. qtr 94	163.0	154.0	145.0	125.0	139.0	160.0	170.0	165.0	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	1 257.0	1 111.0	1 147.0	1 180.0	1 057.0	1 075.0	1 287.0	1 105.0	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	275.0	335.0	271.0	325.0	316.0	339.0	358.0	253.0	n.a.
Potatoes	1 kg	Sept. qtr 94	68.0	70.0	76.0	60.0	115.0	70.0	85.0	73.0	n.a.
Coifec, instant	150 g jar	Sept. qtr 94	374.0	503.0	407.0	512.0	469.0	499.0	556.0	439.0	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sept. qtr 94	297.0	254.0	237.0	311.0	356.0	209.0	285.0	268.0	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	70.1	70.0	62.2	71.5	71.3	76.3	74.8	73.5	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	1 litre	Sept. qtr 94	68.4	68.3	60.5	69.7	69.8	74.7	73.3	71.9	n.a.

TABLE 4. ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA — PERCENTAGE CHANGES

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>										
Employed persons (trend)	Oct. 94p	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.1	1.3	-0.1	0.3
Unemployment rate (trend)(a)	Oct. 94p	-0.1	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	—	0.1	0.2	-0.1
<b>BUILDING APPROVALS</b>										
Dwelling units approved	Sept. 94	-12.4	-10.6	-6.6	2.4	5.4	7.6	-19.6	-11.1	-7.5
Value of non-residential building approved	Sept. 94	-55.0	7.2	-21.3	1.5	-19.7	-35.0	-50.0	-31.2	-35.2
Value of all buildings approved	Sept. 94	-26.5	-8.1	-12.2	1.5	-3.9	4.9	-54.0	-10.8	-17.2
<b>ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION</b>										
Value of engineering construction work done	June qtr 94	16.2	14.5	24.8	8.4	6.3	26.3	25.6	6.0	15.8
<b>AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS</b>										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May qtr 94	1.1	1.2	0.4	-0.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	1.4	0.9
<b>RETAIL TRADE</b>										
Retail turnover (trend)	Sept. 94	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.3	n.p.	0.4	0.6
<b>HOTELS, MOTELS &amp; GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION</b>										
Room nights occupied (trend)	June qtr 94	0.4	1.8	0.8	-0.1	3.6	3.0	-2.9	-0.1	1.0
<b>NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS</b>										
Trend	Sept. 94	1.0	-0.6	-3.8	0.1	-0.1	1.6	-0.9	-2.0	-0.5
		Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Aust.
<b>CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1989-90=100.0)</b>										
Food	Sept. qtr 94	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.3	1.5	1.5	-0.3	0.8	0.8
Housing	Sept. qtr 94	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.5
Transportation	Sept. qtr 94	2.3	0.8	1.8	0.9	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.6
All Groups	Sept. qtr 94	0.9	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6
<b>Average retail prices (cents)</b>										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	1.9	1.9	4.1	1.0	4.5	—	3.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sept. qtr 94	-1.8	0.7	-0.7	-0.8	12.1	3.9	1.2	-1.2	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sept. qtr 94	-2.0	0.8	-0.1	1.4	0.8	-2.0	3.3	3.1	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sept. qtr 94	-6.8	3.7	-11.1	1.2	-1.6	-1.5	—	-9.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sept. qtr 94	-8.1	—	4.1	-4.8	16.2	-9.1	4.9	15.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant	Sept. qtr 94	-16.7	17.5	4.1	33.3	16.7	2.5	18.6	1.6	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sept. qtr 94	1.7	—	—	-0.6	-2.5	—	1.8	0.8	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, leaded	Sept. qtr 94	2.0	-0.3	0.6	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.5	2.2	n.a.
Private motoring — petrol, unleaded	Sept. qtr 94	1.0	-1.3	-0.5	0.1	2.2	0.4	0.7	1.4	n.a.

(a) Change shown in terms of percentage points.

Note: Figures in the above tables are either preliminary, final or revised to previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. Symbols used in this publication: — nil or rounded to zero; n.a. - not available; p - preliminary data; n.p. - not available for publication.

